

MINUTES

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

October 14, 2009

Parowan, Utah

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Denny Drake, Chair
Mayor Dan McGuire, Vice-Chair
LuAnne Forrest
Mayor Leonard Foster
Commissioner Maloy Dodds
Mayor Lowell Mecham
Commissioner Lois Bulloch
Mayor Connie Robinson
Alan Adams
Mayor Kim Lawson
Wes Curtis
Frank Lojko

REPRESENTING

Washington Co. Commissioner Representative
Washington County Mayor Representative
Washington Co. Schools Representative
Beaver County Mayor Representative
Garfield County Commissioner Representative
Garfield County Mayor Representative
Iron County Commissioner Representative
Iron County Mayor Representative
Iron County Schools Representative
Kane County Mayor Representative
Southern Utah University
Dixie State College of Utah

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Marreen Casper
Bryan Thiriot
Mike Empey
Pam Branin
Kelly Stowell
Ken Sizemore
Diane Lamoreaux

Senator Hatch's Office
Senator Bennett's Office
Congressman Matheson's Office
Southern Utah University
CEBA
Five County Association of Governments
Five County Association of Governments

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Chad Johnson
Carolyn White, Excused
Gladys LeFevre, Excused
Commissioner Douglas Heaton
Wendy Allan, Excused

Beaver County Commissioner Representative
Beaver County Schools Representative
Garfield County Schools Representative
Kane County Commissioner Representative
Kane County Schools Representative

Commissioner Denny Drake, Chair, welcomed those in attendance. Those asking to be excused include Ms. Carolyn White, Beaver County Schools Representative; Ms. Gladys LeFevre, Garfield County Schools Representative; and Ms. Wendy Allan, Kane County Schools Representative.

I. MINUTES SEPTEMBER 16, 2009 - REVIEW AND APPROVE

Chairman Drake noted that a quorum was present and presented minutes of the September 16, 2009 meeting for Board consideration and approval.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MALOY DODDS, SECONDED BY MAYOR DAN MCGUIRE, TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2009 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

II. ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Ken Sizemore provided copies of the Five County Association of Governments Annual Report. Photographs on the front cover depict the AOG's presence at office locations in St. George and Cedar City. It was noted that the Home Energy Target Assistance (HEAT) program has outreach workers in each of the five counties. The report highlights successes of programs through correspondence/messages received from clients, other organizations and news media, etc. for various programs administered by the Five County Association of Governments. Page 1 includes the Executive Director message as well as a message from Governor Gary Herbert highlighting the important role that each AOG plays throughout the state of Utah. Along with success stories for each program, the right side of each page outlines services provided over the past fiscal year.

Mr. Sizemore reviewed program success stories and accomplishments as follows: **1) Aging Services--** Congregate and home delivered meals, transportation, outreach, Information & assistance, friendly visiting, telephone reassurance, health screenings, etc. ; **2) Human Services--** Total number of families participating, support service case management, meals & shelter nights, emergency food boxes, bus passes, literacy assistance, child care assistance, dental & health screenings, pounds of food distributed by local food pantries, and enrollment in the Utah Saves program; **3) Child Care Resource & Referral--** Families provided with child care options, technical assistance, hours of child care training, funding to child care providers, support services, 6th Annual Early Childhood Collaboration Conference, etc.; **4) Community and Economic Development--** Community Development Block Grant program funded projects, Community Impact Fund Board project assistance, Revolving Loan Fund loans and micro-loan closings, and planning activities with Utah's Patchwork Parkway (Highway 143) national scenic byway designation proposal; **5) Home Energy Assistance Target (HEAT)--** Total number of households served in each of the five counties, **6) In-Home and Community Based Aging and Adult Services--** Services provided for Alternatives , Medicaid Aging Waiver, Caregiver Support and New Choices Waiver programs; **7) Senior Corps and Volunteer Center Network--** Volunteers and services provided for the Retired Senior Volunteer program (RSVP), Foster Grandparent program, Senior Companion program, Volunteer centers senior health insurance information program, Youth Volunteer Corps, Youth Court, Senior Outreach to Underserved Populations (SOUP) and Court-ordered Community service; **8) Transportation Planning--** Awards and accomplishments of the Dixie Metropolitan Planning Organization, Southern Parkway Phase I opening and funding for two additional phases, Valley View Bridge replacement, Eastern Washington County Rural Planning Organization establishment, Coordinated Human Service Transportation planning and Eastern Iron County Emerging Area Plan development; **9) Weatherization and Housing Rehabilitation - -** Total number of homes weatherized, emergency home repairs, Home rehabilitation and down payment assistance in each of the five counties; **10) Financial Information--** FY 2009 highlights and budget comparisons June 30, 2008 versus June 30, 2009. Detailed financial information was covered during the September Steering Committee meeting; **11) Association of Governments Staff--** Staff members are listed for each program division; and **12) Steering Committee Representatives--** List of current members serving on the Steering Committee. Mr. Sizemore thanked members for their dedicated service and continuing support of the Association of Governments; and **13) Community Partners--** Listing of community partners who contracted to help facilitate efforts of the Association of Governments by providing services to recipients throughout the five county region.

Steering Committee members complimented staff on the formatting and presentation of information contained in the Annual Report noting that it facilitated important highlights of all programs in a very professional manner.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR LOWELL MECHAM, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOIS BULLOCH, TO ACCEPT THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS COVERING THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2008 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2009. MOTION CARRIED.

III. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT - 1ST PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Drake entertained a motion to enter into the 1st public hearing for the Community Development Block Grant program.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MALOY DODDS, SECONDED BY MAYOR CONNIE ROBINSON, TO ENTER INTO THE PUBLIC HEARING. MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Lamoreaux provided background information regarding the Community Development Block Grant program National Objectives and flow of funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The purpose of the 1st public hearing is to solicit input from interested citizens and Board members to consider potential projects. She reported that the Association of Governments received a total of \$799,500 during fiscal year 2009. In addition, there was a total of \$174,781 which was set-aside for brick and mortar type projects to address homelessness in FY 2009. These funds were awarded to Cedar City on behalf of the Iron County Care & Share towards their new homeless shelter. Funds in the amount of \$285,000 were also received as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and were allocated to the Hatch Town multi-purpose community center, the region's number one ranked project.

The range of eligible activities is broad and includes projects such as: 1) Public facilities, 2) Infrastructure, 3) Housing projects, 4) Housing assistance, etc. The Five County Association of Governments has received funding in the past for planning and technical assistance to income eligible communities; funding to establish a Revolving Loan Fund; funds to recapitalize the Revolving Loan Fund; 1st time home buyer program provided through the CHDO; construction of the Five County office building in St. George; and meals-on-wheels delivery truck procurement for the Five County region. Projects benefitting low-moderate income individuals are preferred. Proposed activities that may result in the displacement of low-moderate income individuals are discouraged. The Five County AOG regional planning and technical assistance application has previously included the following elements: 1) Capitalize and administer the Revolving Loan Fund; 2) Provide planning assistance to LMI eligible communities; 3) Provide program delivery for the HOME, Down Payment/Closing Cost Assistance, Emergency Home Repair and RLF programs; 4) Prepare and update the Regional Consolidated Plan; and 5) Workforce Housing Assistance. Past projects undertaken by the AOG have historically been primarily of a "regional" nature.

She reported that set-aside funding of \$150,000 for the regional planning and technical assistance grant for FY 2010 was approved for a one-year period in the June 10, 2009 Steering Committee meeting.

Information contained on pages 13-14 of the packet outlines a request of the Red Rock Center for Independence who is seeking sponsorship of the Association of Governments in order to make application for \$80,000 in FY 2010. Ms. Lamoreaux explained that the Steering Committee serves as the Regional Review Committee (RRC) for the Five County region and has the option of sponsoring projects of a regional nature. In the past, all regional projects have been presented to the Steering Committee for consideration and upon approval administered by Five County AOG staff. Sponsoring a non-profit organization incurs a certain amount of liability associated with proper administration and delivery of the program. In some instances, counties and cities have had to pay back funds because certain requirements of the CDBG program were not followed properly and/or funds were not allocated in a consistent manner. A couple of jurisdictions in the Five County region have narrowly escaped liability for non-profit applications which were on the fringe of noncompliance with HUD requirements. In conversation with state of Utah CDBG staff, it is their preference that home rehabilitation and housing activities are carried out by Housing Authorities or AOG's. In addition, the Five County AOG rating and ranking criteria regional priority for ADA projects is low. Sponsorship of this application is at the discretion of the Board. Board members cited various concerns including limited funds, liability associated with sponsoring non-profit organizations, and legitimacy of how this program would be accomplished.

Chairman Drake solicited additional comments from the public as well as Board members. He entertained a motion to close the public hearing as no further comments were provided.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MALOY DODDS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOIS BULLOCH, TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MALOY DODDS, SECONDED BY MAYOR KIM LAWSON, THAT THE STEERING COMMITTEE DENY THE REQUEST OF RED ROCK CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE TO SPONSOR THEIR APPLICATION AND TAKE A POSITION TO NOT SPONSOR ANY NON-PROFIT APPLICATIONS FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM. MOTION CARRIED.

The Board provided direction to AOG staff to proceed with a scope of work for the regional planning and technical assistance grant.

IV. REVOLVING LOAN FUND - ANNUAL CERTIFICATION

Mr. Ken Sizemore referenced information contained on pages 15-18 of the packet containing the 2009 Annual Certification for the Five County Economic Development District Revolving Loan Fund. Funding from the Economic Development Administration and Community Development Block Grant were initially utilized to capitalize this program in 1987. Since the inception of this program over 100 loans have been closed with over 410 current jobs. Darren Janes, staff planner, is assigned the responsibility of administering this program. One big challenge is making sure that business are paying back their obligations. There are currently five delinquent loans that staff is working to bring current. It was noted that over the duration of this program a total of 18 loans (8.6%) have been written off, with one large loan to a computer hardware manufacturing company in St. George comprising the majority of \$601,891. Performance measures as of August 31, 2009 were reviewed.

During the past year four loans were closed with a commitment to create 15 new jobs and the campground property in Escalante was sold. Page 18 of the packet contains a resolution for Board consideration.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER LOIS BULLOCH, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MALOY DODDS, AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR'S SIGNATURE ON THE CERTIFICATION RESOLUTION. MOTION CARRIED.

V. SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY REGIONAL SERVICES UPDATE

Mr. Wes Curtis, Regional Services Office, reported that Fall enrollment at Southern Utah University is at its highest level with a 7.3% increase. Even though this is positive, state funding support for higher education has decreased over 10% during the last fiscal year. This makes it difficult to maintain programs and provide quality education, and may ultimately create changes in how the institution approaches this problem. As discussion evolves, updated information will be provided. A new concept at SUU has developed for consideration of a Southern Utah Museum of Art. This is still in the conceptual state but Jimmy Jones has donated paintings to SUU. The Braithwaite Museum of Art is currently featuring these paintings which are very impressive. He also reported that the Utah Prairie Dog Recovery and Implementation Plan (UPDRIP) is still an emphasis of Regional Services. A position was recently advertised, interviews were conducted and then the person offered the position declined. The advertisement process will again be initiated with hopes of bringing on staff in the near future.

He announced that the architectural design program at SUU is interested in initiating services to communities through student interns. These interns would provide building design and/or re-design. Jurisdictions interested in accessing these type of services are encouraged to contact Wes Curtis.

Mr. Curtis introduced Ms. Pam Branin, Coordinator of the Service and Learning Center at SUU. Ms. Branin reported that the center was created 10 years ago with the goal of getting students involved out in the communities to provide needed services while at the same time providing positive learning experiences. This enhances the student's real world knowledge and experience. The university's mission statement identifies core values as aiming toward academic excellence, helping create community and social responsibility with students & employees, and helping to provide opportunities for involvement and personal growth. Services provided through the Center with the use of student volunteers include: **1) After School Programming Opportunities--** Literacy, tutoring, weekly story hour in Cedar City library, Paiute after school program partnering with the Paiute Tribal Center; and **2) Sports--** After school sports club with focus toward middle school age students to provide a positive after school experience on campus through assistance of volunteer mentors, and Paiute Center family sports program on a weekly basis through a partnership with the Paiute Tribal Center. The Center also provides more broad community service assistance through their annual service Saturday each year in August, Iron County holiday assistance program, senior outreach through the senior citizen centers and care facilities, active service club involvement with communities at least twice a month, and volunteer placement for students to provide hands-on experience. Outreach activities include an alternative break program where students travel to various areas all over the country to assist with projects such as Habitat for Humanity, Mexico trip to southern Sonora, and a new pay-it-

forward tour this next summer which will begin in northern Utah and end in Arizona in an 8-10 day time frame performing needed service along the way. These efforts provide experience for students through participation in an array of service projects. The Center hosts an on-campus food pantry which typically serves approximately 90 students each month. This program is coordinated and partnered through the Iron County Care & Share. During the last school year over 37,000 hours of community service were provided through the Service and Learning Center by students. Wes Curtis commented that the idea of student service and service learning is becoming an important priority for SUU in expanding their mission and is a tremendous resource for communities to draw upon.

VI. DIXIE STATE COLLEGE UPDATE

Mr. Frank Lojko, Dixie State College of Utah, reported that Dixie State College experienced a 25% increase in fall semester full-time enrollment with the largest freshman class in the college's history. Coupled with large increases last fall and spring, enrollment is growing very rapidly. The Jennings Communications Building was recently dedicated including a center for media innovations with Dick Norse. This is a hands-on program where students begin as freshmen running cameras, the radio station, working on the newspaper, etc. Dixie TV recently purchased a truck that was in a company financial sale valued at \$1.5 million for \$500,000. This has worked out quite well as KCSG has now joined with Dixie State College in the communications program and is located in the Jennings Communications building. Phil Tuckett, director of the Center for Media Innovations, launched a new program titled "Docucon" an international film festival which will be held next September. Invitations will be extended to producers and students from all over the world to bring programs in. In September 2010 there will be three areas which will be hosted as follows: 1) Kanab in a special field area; 2) Tucahan; and 3) The O.C. Tanner Amphitheater in Springdale. Funding for this program is through Dixie State College, the film fest for Kane County and St. George. It is anticipated that this will bring a lot of revenue into these communities. Little Hollywood revisited is now winning awards and is being shown in a few states on community television. Staff has been working with individuals from Hollywood as well as Clear Vision TV to attract other motion picture industries into the area.

Kelly Stowell provided copies of the Little Hollywood documentary to Board members. This documentary has been very well received and is currently being marketed. Another initiative in conjunction with Dixie State College is the Business of Art Conference which will be held November 14th. The conference offers classes and business training at no cost for aspiring artists. Mailings have been sent to artists in southern Utah, especially targeting those along Highway 89. A new movie is scheduled to be produced in southern Utah titled "John Carter of Mars" by Dixie Pixar. The film will be shot in Kane and Wayne counties as well as in Moab and will impact the economies of southern Utah. It is anticipated that approximately \$200 million will be spent in the state of Utah.

VII. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF UPDATES

Ms. Marreen Casper, Senator Hatch's Office, reported that the Senator serves on the Finance Committee where the health care bill did pass out of committee. Senator Hatch voted against the bill because he believes it is too expensive, does not do what it says it will, and is unconstitutional in terms of requiring citizens to enter into a contract. However,

he believes that Tort Reform could be good for health care. The Senator has sent letters to Secretary Janet Napolitano, Homeland Security, asking that the current level of border patrol agents remain to secure our borders. The Red Rock Wilderness Bill has been reintroduced and the first hearing has been held. The entire Utah delegation has expressed opposition to this legislation and process. Senator Hatch recently held an energy symposium on Cap and Trade. A handout was provided outlining the cost of this legislation to Utah and other states. An announcement was provided for Senator Orrin Hatch and Mrs. Elaine Hatch's twenty-fifth annual Utah Women's Conference to be held on Monday, October 26, 2009 at the Abravanel Symphony Hall in Salt Lake City. The keynote speaker is former First Lady Laura Bush.

Mr. Bryan Thiriot, Senator Bennett's Office, reported that federal government is operating on a continuing resolution until the end of October. The Senate is working on an energy and water bill as well as commerce, justice and science building and the defense spending bill did pass. It is anticipated that the health care bill will cost \$829 billion over 10 years and would not begin coverage until 2013. Under this bill states would be mandated to spend \$338 billion of state funds on Medicaid. Senator Bennett introduced an amendment for the Census to include citizenship as a question that would be asked for reapportionment. It is also anticipated that unemployment benefits will be extended. Senator Bennett signed a letter addressed to the Secretary of Energy asking that they hold off on allowing excess uranium into markets.

Mr. Mike Empey, Congressman Matheson's Office, reported that the Congressman is continuing to work with his colleagues to spread the word that local governments in Utah have developed a regional process as a better option in dealing with wilderness designation. He felt that the hearings on the Red Rock Wilderness bill went very well with the new head of the Bureau of Land Management speaking in favor of regional processes established for dealing with wilderness. There are currently five different health care bills that have been introduced. Next step includes trying to combine these bills into something that will not be too expensive. Congressman Matheson was recently elected as the co-chair of the Blue Dog Coalition, considered to be a fiscally conservative group. Case workers for Congressman Matheson will be in Paiute and Garfield counties to assist those having issues or problems with government agencies such as the veterans administration, etc. An economic development forum is scheduled for next Tuesday at the Cedar Senior Citizens Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. to talk about Small Business Administration programs and grant opportunities.

VIII. LOCAL AFFAIRS

A. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Sizemore referred to information contained on page 19 of the packet outlining FY 2010 average wage for the State Economic Development Initiatives for Beaver, Garfield and Kane counties. Annual wage by county is included on page 20 for information purposes.

B. OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL

Mr. Sizemore reported that one out-of-state travel authorization was overlooked for Linda Sappington to attend AmeriCorps training in Kansas City, Missouri. Because

the conference was last week, it was necessary to obtain Executive Committee approval for this travel and staff is requesting ratification of this action.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MALOY DODDS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOIS BULLOCH, TO RATIFY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION APPROVING OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL FOR LINDA SAPPINGTON TO ATTEND AMERICORPS TRAINING AS OUTLINED. MOTION CARRIED.

C. PERMANENT COMMUNITY IMPACT BOARD APPLICATIONS

Mr. Sizemore reviewed three applications to the Permanent Community Impact Board as follows: **1) Kane County Hospital--** \$130,000 for a heli-pad and bulk oxygen; **2 Kanab City--** Construction of a new bridge to the Kanab Creek Ranchos; **3) Enoch City--** Security fencing around their well house and tanks. The Board has the option to support, not support or remain neutral.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR KIM LAWSON, SECONDED BY MAYOR LEONARD FOSTER, TO SUPPORT THE THREE APPLICATIONS TO THE PERMANENT COMMUNITY IMPACT BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.

D. PLANNING ASSISTANCE

None.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Sizemore provided an invitation for Board members to attend an important announcement regarding Highway 143, Utah's Patchwork Parkway, to be held on Monday, October 19, 2009 beginning at 2:30 p.m. at the Parowan Heritage Park. Designation of this scenic byway will be formally announced in Washington, D.C. on Friday and Lt. Governor Greg Bell and other state and local officials will be in attendance at Monday's announcement.

Mayor Lowell Mecham thanked Board members for discussing fire issues during the September meeting. He explained that smoke problems in Garfield County, especially in Bryce Valley, are unique because of the topography in this small valley. Dixie National Forest (DNF) has targeted this area on the East Fork of the Sevier River where fires have continually burned for over 75 days. This is a huge impact on residents health/quality of life as well as a detriment to tourism industry which is very important to the areas economy. Elected officials have tried to work with DNF staff as well as the State Division of Air Quality to address these issues but have not been very successful in this endeavor. As fires are allowed to burn for continued periods of time it causes a great impact on local residents health and impedes visitor experiences at Bryce Canyon National Park. He requested that the Board consider drafting a letter of support voicing elected official concerns in this regard.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR LOWELL MECHAM, SECONDED BY MAYOR CONNIE ROBINSON, INSTRUCTING STAFF TO DEVELOP A DRAFT LETTER

**TO THE STATE DIVISION OF AIR QUALITY ADDRESSING THIS ISSUE FOR
CONSIDERATION AT THE NOVEMBER STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING.
MOTION CARRIED.**

IX. AREAWIDE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEWS

Commissioner Drake, Chair, presented one A-95 review contained in the packet for Board consideration. This review has a supportive staff recommendation.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MALOY DODDS, SECONDED BY MR. ALAN
ADAMS, TO APPROVE THE AREAWIDE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW AS PER STAFF
RECOMMENDATION. MOTION CARRIED.**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at the Five County Association of Governments office in St. George beginning at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Sizemore noted that this meeting is scheduled for the third Wednesday.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.